



Mum's the Word

March 2020 – Volume 52, Issue 7

Salisbury Garden Club

www.salisburygardenclub.com

Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs Member

A Message from SGC President, Janice Beatty. . .

Everything that slows us down
and forces patience,
everything that sets us back into
the slow cycles of nature, is a help.
Gardening is an Instrument of grace.

~ May Sarton

Wow, things have suddenly changed so drastically since our meeting last month.

What an eye opener for me. The Coronavirus has changed how we gather, shop, communicate and think. I found this poem in a gardening book and thought it is very appropriate for our March newsletter.

We are forced to slow down, perhaps rethink what was previously normal, and do things a little differently. The Piedmont District Meeting was cancelled, along with SGC March meeting. The VFGC meeting to be held at the end of this month, the April 3rd RCGC meetings, and RCGC *Fashion with Flowers* scheduled of March 27th have also been cancelled. National Garden Clubs has just announced that the May convention in Milwaukee, WI has been cancelled.

As of right now, SGC April meeting is still a go, as is our Flower Tour. Please read all SGC emails because the cancellation of these as well as other garden club activities could change very quickly. The most important thing for all of us to do is to follow the guidance of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other public health

officials to minimize the risk of contracting and spreading the virus. Please be safe. I will be using my free time to care for my gardens and reconnecting to the slower pace of growing things.

Bright beams, Janice



TREASURER'S REPORT

FEBRUARY 1, 2020 – FEBRUARY 29, 2020

Prepared by Claudia Cosby, Treasurer

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Committee Reports

CIVIC BEAUTIFICATION – Meg Winn

The daffodil parade is in full swing: there are exquisite little beauties blooming in the Anniversary Garden and bolder ones at the preschool sign -- at least we can enjoy the view while still practicing "social distancing"!

The remaining workdays in March are cancelled – April to be determined. Our members’ safety is foremost in our minds.

EDUCATION – Camille Archie

Many thanks to JJ Jordan, Lorna Boucher, Dana Dee Carragher, Vicki McGonegal, Becky Sido, Delora Stites and Kathy Ward for their wonderful work at Spring Arbor. They helped the residents paint garden flags with bright primary colors. Everyone enjoyed the creative project.

Our Flower Show for the Hospice House on March 18th, Veterans Art for the Journey Project on March 19th and our Bickford Project on March 24th have been cancelled due to Coronavirus.

At this time there are no April Education Projects but May will be very busy for Education. **May 6th the children at Redeemer Preschool will plant flowers for their mothers and arrangements of Spring flowers will be designed for the Hospice House on May 8th. A Tea Party at Spring Arbor will be on May 12th** after the residents create a tea cup design. We will also be at **Southampton in May (date to be determined)** working with the after-school garden club.

Prayers for good health to all.

GARDEN TOUR – Nancy Clark

We need lots of volunteers to serve as hosts at our Garden Tour houses on April 29. We're asking each volunteer to work 1½ hours between 1:00-5:00 PM, which still leaves each hostess time to tour the other houses. If you are willing to lend a hand, please complete the coupon on the sign-up sheet and we will be in touch later to set the volunteer times and places. Thank you!!

NOMINATING COMMITTEE – Lorna Boucher

The 2020-2021 Slate of officers: **President** – Janice Beatty; **1st VP Programs** – Martie Parch and Connie Sorrell; **2nd VP Membership** – Barbara Metz; **Recording Secretary** – Katie Conschafter; and **Treasurer** – Helen Davison. Nominations may also be taken from the floor provided consent of the nominee has been secured. (If the April meeting has to be cancelled, we will inform you by email of the voting process.)

PROGRAMS – Martie Parch and Connie Sorrell

Janet Minock, who was scheduled to present our design program on the 18th, has agreed to come back next year! We are certainly sorry to miss her beautiful arrangements.

See article below about the **rescheduling of the Design Workshop** with Kathy Ward. If you can come at 1:30 to help set up the room, that would be appreciated.

There were 13 members of our club who attended the **Philadelphia Flower Show**. It was magnificent as always and we had a grand time together! We look forward to going again next year!



Everyone stay safe and wash your hands! See you soon!

Gardening Enrichment

Thank you to all those who donated their time and talents on March 9th and 10th to help the elementary students at Homework Helpers learn how easy it is to propagate house plants. The students were able to choose two plants to start in a pot to take home. There were several kinds of plants donated by SGC members for the students to choose from:



jade, holiday cactus, spider, ivy, pathos, philodendron and other succulents. The whole activity went smoothly both days, with 53 students (19 students in all were absent) taking a pot with plants home, along with plant care

instructions. Clean up both days was amazingly quick.

Many thanks to those who volunteered on Monday: Camille Archie, Lorna Boucher, Vicki McGonegal, Martie Parch, Nancy Pressendo, Nancy Scherer, Peggy Young & myself. Tuesday- Camille Archie, Janice Beatty, Katie Conschafter, Barbara Metz, Karen Rice, Nancy Scherer, Delora Stites, Peggy Young & myself. Thanks also to Carol Romeo who dropped off a jar full of rooted philodendron. A big thank you to Home Depot who donated pots, sand and soil for our project.

One of the Monday tutors asked me about SGC and what we do. He was surprised when I shared a few of the activities/projects that we are involved in, commenting that – Oh, so you are a community service group. I'm so proud to be part of Salisbury Garden Club and all those who donated their time to help these children.

Here's a picture of the Amaryllis that the kids planted in January! The blooms were amazing and really fascinated the students, tutors and staff at Stony Point Presbyterian church. Taken February 24th



Again, thanks for supporting Homework Helpers,
Becky Sido, Chairman



The Board wishes to thank Martie Parch for hosting the March Board Meeting in her lovely home.

DESIGN WORKSHOP – APRIL 14, 2020 “Designing for Tomorrow”

This workshop has been rescheduled from March – see the coupon on the sign-up sheet. If you registered for the March workshop, check whether or not you wish to attend the on the April date. New registrants just check the appropriate line.



SGC member Kathy Ward is the instructor for this workshop. It will be held in the Parish Hall on April 14 from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM. The cost per registrant is \$10.

In this workshop members will be given the opportunity to create designs for display at the general meeting the next day. Kathy will cover **Petite Design**, an easier design, and **Spatial Thrust Design**, for more of a challenge. To learn more about this workshop and Kathy, refer to pages 104-105 in your Yearbook.

Martie Parch & Connie Sorrell, Chairmen

CENTERPIECES NEEDED for Awards & Installation Luncheon



Once again, we are giving our members an opportunity to earn points for **next year**.

Members may sign up to bring a floral design to the luncheon and have it judged as a design exhibit, which would fulfill the design

requirement portion of the Member in Good Standing achievement. The designs will be used as centerpieces and also for decorating around the room (and then go home with the designers).

The theme is "Sunshine and Flowers" (Rule 1- all fresh plant material). Designers may choose their color scheme and flowers, but we ask that the designs be low enough as not to obstruct one's view when sitting at the table.

If you would like to participate, just complete the coupon on the sign-up sheet. **Please contact Nancy Scherer or Shirley Gates with any questions.**

SGC Awards & Installation Luncheon



"Sunshine and Flowers"

**Wednesday, May 20
at Boathouse at Sunday Park
4602 Millridge Parkway**

Cost is \$30

Reservation Deadline May 6th

**We will begin at 10:00 AM with coffee and social time.
At 10:45 the meeting will start with
the luncheon to follow.**

Each entree will include rolls and butter,
Boathouse Ranch Salad, fresh fruit and dessert.

The Luncheon choices are:

CHICKEN SALAD SANDWICH

CRABCAKE SANDWICH

CHEF'S VEGETARIAN CHOICE

Beverages served will be coffee, hot tea, iced tea,
soft drinks and water. A cash bar will be available
with red/white wine, Bloody Mary's and Mimosas.
Please complete the coupon on the sign-up sheet
with your luncheon choice.

If you have any questions, contact Nancy Scherer
or Shirley Gates, Chairmen.



Here we grow again...please
welcome returning member:

Karen Haneke – Details not available for website

PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGE

As you already know from the email sent to all members, the SGC Board of Directors recommends increasing SGC Annual Dues to \$50. The current wording in the Appendix page xxii is “**Section 4: Dues - a. Annual dues are \$45 per active and associate members**”. The new wording would be the same except \$45 would be changed to \$50.

We will let you know when and how the vote on the bylaw change will take place.



National Garden Clubs 2021 Vision of Beauty Calendar

We are now taking orders for the 2021 Vision of Beauty Calendar. The cost is \$6 per calendar. If you are interested in purchasing one or more calendars, just complete the coupon on the signup sheet.

THREE-MINUTE TIP by JJ Jordan

Despite the unsettled state of affairs surrounding the Coronavirus, the time for planning our gardens is here.

A while back I wrote a Three-Minute Tip on using packing “peanuts” as a space saver in the bottom of

containers so that less soil is used in those planting. Using the “peanuts” brought on several problems. They either decomposed allowing the soil level to drop or were a mess when trying to replant for the next season.

Recently I came across an even better “space saver” and one that will reuse plastic containers, saving our landfills as well. Instead of

throwing those juice jugs, water bottles, and other plastic containers, wash them out and seal them. Then use them in the bottom of your



container planters. Doing this will require even less soil, allow better drainage, not require rocks for drainage, and because the planters will be much lighter will allow for easier moving of your finished garden.

Keep safe and healthy and enjoy your gardens during these inconvenient times.

How to Read a Nursery Plant Tag

As you wander the rows of beautiful plants at Strange's or The Great Big Greenhouse, the huge variety, in their many colors, leaf variations and sizes, can be overwhelming. Which plant will work best in your garden? How many plants should you put in that container? Is this an annual or a perennial?

Plant tags are there to help you make informed decisions about the plants you purchase. They contain information on size, bloom time, light and water requirements. They also include the information that you need to fill out your exhibit card for garden club. Understanding how to read plant tags is key to making good choices.

Annual or Perennial - Annuals are not expected to live through the winter and will need to be replanted every year. Perennials can over-winter and will return year after year.

Common Name - The common name of the plant is the usually the largest printing on the tag. It is the name that the plant is know by for most people. Most plants have more than one common name and the common name can be different in different areas of the county/world.

Botanical Name - The botanical name is the scientific name of the plant. It is written in Latin and will be printed in italics. When writing the botanical name, it should be underlined. The botanical name will include the genius (group) and species of the plant. Sometimes It will also contain the cultivar, which is written in ingle quotation marks. This is the name that should go on your exhibit card for horticulture.

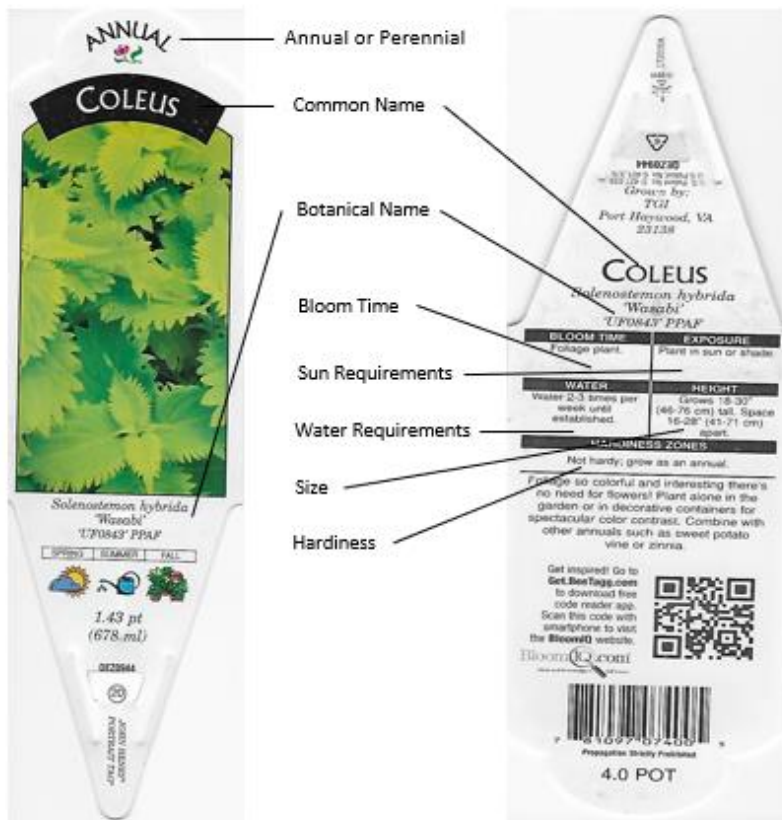
Bloom Time - The bloom time will tell you not only when to expect blooms but also how long the blooming season is.

Light Requirement - The light requirement will tell you how much sun exposure the plant requires to thrive. It will usually be expresses as a certain number of hours of sun per day or as shade, part shade, part sun or full sun.

Water Requirement - The water requirement tells the gardener how much water the plant requires. This is a good indicator as to whether the soil needs to be kept damp or allowed to dry out between waterings.

Size - The maximum height and spread of the plant is often listed. This gives you an idea of how close to space the plant to others. It will also let you know whether it should be planted in front of or behind other plants.

Hardiness - The tag will list the coldest zone in which the plant can survive or perhaps the zone range in which it lives. We live in zone 7B. Many annuals do not list hardiness zone as they are not expected to last beyond one season.



Article by Kathy Ward
Master Gardener and NGC Flower Show Judge

*The glory of gardening: hands in the dirt,
head in the sun, heart with nature.
To nurture a garden is to feed not
just on the body, but the soul.*

~Alfred Austin



Next Month's Meeting – April 15, 2020

Episcopal Church of the Redeemer – Coffee 9:30/Meeting 10
(See page 110 of your Yearbook for Details)

Program: “Habitat Gardening for Biodiversity”
by Donna Cottingham, Master Naturalist

Greeter: Gay Kistler

**Hostesses (Note: The list on page 110 of your
Yearbook is incorrect):**

Lu Cavallaro, Julia Clevert, Gay Kistler, Deirdre
Knight, Matilda Large, Candy Nasser, Linda Nau,
Carol Romeo, Carol Schlichtherle



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL EVENTS: At this writing, the events below are still
scheduled to take place, but you should check with SGC, Lewis
Ginter, and Maymont before you plan to attend any event.

- | | | |
|------------|---|------|
| 3-5 | African Violet Show and Sale
Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden | |
| 7 | Wishing Well Park Workday | CP13 |
| 8 | SGC Board Meeting – 9:30 AM
Hostess: Gayle Walters | |
| 8 | Redeemer Courtyard Workday | CP15 |
| 14 | Workshop: “Designing for Tomorrow”
by Kathy Ward from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM | |
| 15 | SGC General Meeting – 9:30 AM
Program: “Habitat Gardening for
Biodiversity” by Donna Cottingham | CP4 |
| 22 | Midlothian Fire Station Workday | CP16 |
| 25 | Herbs Galore & More – Maymont
maymont.org | |
| 29 | SGC Biennial Garden Tour | CP4 |



Newsletter Editor: Linda Nau, naule@aol.com